

Sea Operational Detachment keeps CVW-14 pilots flying high

By JO2 Carmicheal Yopez
Penny Press Staff

The Sea Operational Detachment is composed of 156 Sailors from different air stations.

"Without them we wouldn't be able to fully support the air wing. The ship's company only makes up about 10 percent of AIMD. The SEAOPDET rounds up our technical expertise," said ATC Mike Summers, IM3 branch chief.

They supplement the Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department during at-sea periods when the air wing is embarked for work-ups and deployments.

Usually 'A' school graduates, E-4 and below, work as apprentice/bench operators in the performance of intermediate level maintenance on aircraft components.

"We have a lot more maintenance performed when the air wing is on board, so they supplement all the work that is done," said AZC Deborah Trautmann,



Penny Press Staff / Photo by JO2 Carmicheal Yopez

AT3 Matthew Smith, SEAOPDET Leemore, is checking resistance on a circuit card from an aircraft part.

SEAOPDET coordinator.

The majority are assigned to the General Maintenance Division and the

Avionics/Armament Division where they

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New housing allowance rates are largest in history

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

Almost 90 percent of service members receiving Basic Allowance for Housing will see their rates rise significantly in 2001, DoD officials said here Dec. 21.

"The range of the rates will go up from 12 to 17 percent," said Bernard Rostker, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. "The average increase will be 14.5 percent."

Officials said this is among the largest increase in history. The new BAH rates are at <http://www.dtic.mil/>

perdiem/bahform.html.

While no one will see their rates decrease, some 25 percent of the BAH rates will not increase, Rostker said, but that involves only 11 percent of the BAH population. Around 748,000 service members receive the allowance.

"What this means is an E-5 will be taking an extra \$100 per month home," said Alphonso Maldon Jr., assistant defense secretary for force management policy. "That's pretty significant in terms of putting discretionary money back in the pockets of

service members."

The raise in the rates is partly due to DoD taking a hard look at how officials set the rates and "setting them in a more equitable and responsive fashion," Rostker said.

As part of the change, DoD has permanently provided for individual rate protection. "If you're in an area and the survey would show the rate has gone down you will still get the old rate," Rostker said. "We've also provided for geographic rate protection. This means if a new service member moves into the area they will get the same rate you

get. We will not have two rates in an area at the same time."

The 2001 allowance hike is part of Defense Secretary William S. Cohen's effort to improve service members' quality of life. The Cohen Initiative aims to eliminate service members paying for housing and utilities out-of-pocket by fiscal 2005. In fiscal 2001, service members will pay out-of-pocket 15 percent. In fiscal 2000, it was 18 percent.

The increase in the allowance will also make military housing privatization

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